

DRIEHAUS HAILS HOUSE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO PUT 50,000 MORE POLICE ON OUR NATION'S STREETS

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today welcomed House passage of the COPS Improvements Acts, which would allow for an additional 50,000 police officers to be hired nationwide over the next five years. The measure is an expansion of the 1994 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring grants program, which helped local law enforcement hire more than 117,000 police officers.

“We know how successful the COPS program has been in helping law enforcement put more police officers on the street. At a time when state and local governments are cutting critical services, expanding the COPS program will help communities in greater Cincinnati and across the country ensure that they can control crime and maintain public safety,” said Rep. Driehaus.

The COPS Improvements Act will expand the COPS hiring grants program established in 1994 under the Clinton administration. The program allowed for the hiring of 117,000 additional police officers nationwide and was followed by a significant drop in crime rates. This legislation revitalizes the program, expanding grant resources that can be used to hire officers to engage in community policing, serve as school resource officers, or engage in counter-terrorist duties. The bill also reinstates the Troops-to-COPS Program, which awards grants to hire former members of the armed forces as career law enforcement officers.

The COPS Improvements Act has won the support of numerous law enforcement advocacy groups, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the National District Attorneys Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

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